

# Reagan urged to condemn alleged SALT II violations

BY A WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF WRITER

In a development coming at a crucial time in the nuclear freeze debate, an interagency national security group is recommending that President Reagan denounce the Soviet Union for violations of the SALT II Treaty, according to well-placed Capitol Hill sources.

And, those sources say, there has been a deep division in segments of the national security group, with some State Department officials taking a hard line and asking that Reagan take the Soviets to task, and some Defense Department officials wanting a softer line.

According to those sources, an interagency group consisting of representatives of the State and Defense Departments, the National Security Council, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the Central Intelligence Agency met last week and concluded there were significant Soviet violations of the SALT II treaty.

According to Senate sources, State Department officials there took a hard line and wanted to condemn Soviet violations. The main dissenter on that was William H. Taft IV, the Defense Department's general counsel.

Taft did not return a reporter's telephone calls about the reasons for his objections to condemning the Soviets.

The group then recommended that the heads of their departments be told that there was a good case on treaty violations, and their agency heads could then take that position to William Clark, Reagan's national security adviser, the sources said.

Words of the session apparently leaked to Capitol Hill, and a group of seven conservative Republican senators wrote Reagan asking him to answer several questions about possible SALT II violations.

According to those sources, the sena-

tors wanted to get Reagan on record about the violations in the same week that the House will be voting on the nuclear freeze resolution.

The letter reminded Reagan that on Feb. 23 he came close to charging the Soviets were in violation when he said about a new Soviet missile, the PL-5:

"This last one comes the closest to indicating that it is a violation."

"Thus," the senators said, "you are on the record with a virtual accusation that the Soviet PL-5 violates SALT II."

The senators said they were concerned about several areas of possible SALT II violations, including the PL-5, the Soviets building more bombers than the treaty calls for and violations limits on strategic and cruise missiles.

Signing the letter were Sens. Jesse Helms and John East of North Carolina, Steve Symms and James McClure of Idaho, Jeremiah Denton of Alabama,

Gordon Humphrey of New Hampshire and Charles Grassley of Iowa.

One Senate aide said, "It's been an open secret what the interagency group did. It gives Reagan a perfect opportunity to spike the nuclear freeze movement."

Meantime, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said yesterday the United States might consider an interim proposal for reducing nuclear missiles in Europe if the Soviets promise to keep talking about more extensive disarmament.

"Our worry is: What is the inducement to the Soviets to come back to the table if they get an agreement that satisfied their needs and none of ours?" Weinberger said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

In a separate interview Sunday, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl also called on President Reagan to seek an interim agreement to break the deadlock in U.S.-Soviet arms talks.

"It certainly is time for new proposals, but this does not mean we will have to give up the Reagan zero solution as an ultimate objective," said Kohl whose pro-U.S. conservative government won in West Germany's elections last week.